

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th November 1899.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Samiran* of the 15th November has the following:—

Prayer for British victory.

We are thrown into great anxiety on seeing the troubles of our rulers in the Transvaal. The British Lion is fairly put out of countenance by the prowess of the half-civilised Boers. Mother Durga! remove the troubles of our rulers. The Indians are a loyal people. They are loyal from the creation of kingship in India. Is there a nation in the world who worship the king as a god and can sacrifice everything for his sake? We, Hindus, have forgotten all our own troubles, the plague and the famine, and we pray to Durga to bless our rulers. Let us again worship the goddess, who removes all our difficulties, to promote the welfare of our rulers and their subjects. Mother! Thou who art the essence of everything and dost pervade all things, Thou whose divine kindness is visible everywhere in the Universe, Thou whose glory has been manifest in Creation from its very beginning, let us pray and worship Thee. Let us with our millions of voices call on You for victory and protection. If we can pray to our Mother sincerely, there is no doubt that she will be moved and hold out the promise of Her divine protection. Therefore, we say that in every Hindu house let the sacred *Chandi* and the divine *Gita* be chanted, and let the gods be worshipped. Our Queen will then surely come off victorious, and the victory of British arms will be trumpeted all over the world. Our fears and anxieties will be laid at rest. The goddess Amba (Durga) is being worshipped in the Deccan, and the sacred *Chandi* and the divine *Gita* are being chanted in every Hindu house. Come Hindus, Musalmans, Buddhists, and Christians, come! Let us forget our caste and religious distinctions, and let us worship our respective gods and goddesses for the victory of our Queen.

SAMIRAN,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

2. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th November has the following:—

The Boers and the Transvaal war.

According to the treaty of 1881 and the instructions of Mr. Gladstone, Sir Evelyn Wood made the Boers acknowledge British supremacy. The other conditions of the treaty were, that, if necessary, the English should be allowed to carry soldiers through the Transvaal, and no British subjects should be prevented from entering the Boer country. The Boers were then in a very deplorable condition, and the English were kind enough to protect them. President Kruger and all Boers of position were then impressed with the magnanimity of the English. In 1884, according to another treaty, the Boers of the Transvaal, like those of the Orange Free State, were given greater independence. Though the English continually defeated them, still they pardoned them. Was it not a proof of the liberality and large-heartedness of the English to have treated a fallen enemy in this way? But the Boers are again engaged in a war against the British. This time they will be completely defeated by General Buller, and their ruin is certain.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

3. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 16th November says that one

Lord Kitchener's treatment of the Soudanese.

of the mistakes made by Lord Kitchener is that he had the dead body of the Madhi dug out of his grave, and another mistake he made is that he mercilessly put to death the son-in-law of the Madhi. The fanatical excitement, therefore, among the followers of the Madhi, however great it may be, must not be considered to be without sufficient cause. All Chiefs of the Soudan are now in a disordered state. The Khalifa Abdulla, who fled from Omdurman in a very deplorable condition, is now in Jeelgar, where he is making preparations for opposing Lord Kitchener's troops.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

4. The same paper says that it has more than once been heard that

The rumoured Russian designs upon Afghanistan.

Russia's preparations for invading India have been completed, but we do not remember that such news ever went uncontradicted. Such news generally comes from St. Petersburg. It will soon be heard that the *Times* St. Petersburg correspondent's statement that on the death of the Amir, which is likely to take place very soon, Russia will invade India, is quite unfounded. Up to this time no one has been able to understand the Amir's policy. From Russia's preparations for war no one can infer that she will invade India or Afghanistan. She is not such a fool as to causelessly wage war with a Power

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,

like England whose bravery is well-known all over the world or with Afghanistan whose conquest will not at all be profitable to her.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

5. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th November has the following:—

The rumoured Russian movement towards Afghanistan.

The Russians have made preparations to occupy Afghanistan. Railway lines have been constructed from Merv to Khusk, and strong fortresses have been built both at Khusk and Karki. One hundred and fifty guns and thousands of Russian soldiers have arrived at those places, and materials for the construction of a railway line from Khusk to Herat have also arrived. In short, everything required for a war is ready, and the Russian soldiers are only awaiting orders to march to Herat. The Russian Government says that all these preparations are for putting down the anarchy which is sure to take place after the death of the Amir. Whatever the Russian Government may say, everybody understands its real design. Now that the English are engaged in a war with the Boers and their greatest generals and the majority of their skilful soldiers have been sent to Africa, the Russians make this move towards Afghanistan. At present there exists great friendship between Russia and France. Russia is willing to occupy Afghanistan and France Morocco. They have with this object made all the preparations needed for a war. We fear that we may some day hear that Russian soldiers have entered Afghanistan and the English and the Russians are engaged in a war.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 17th, 1899.

6. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th November writes as follows:—

The Transvaal war.

No decisive battle has yet been fought in the Transvaal. The Boers have attacked the English in three directions. Continual bombardment is going on near Mafeking and Kimberley. Colonel Baden Powell is defending Mafeking with unrivalled heroism and Colonel Kekewich is defending Kimberley with equal bravery.

In the east, the Boers have advanced far into Natal. They have laid siege to Ladysmith and invested General White on three sides. In the south, the Boer army has occupied Colesberg in Cape Colony, and is advancing further and further into that country. General Buller's army has arrived at Capetown, and soon the flames of war will be kindled all over South Africa. The Boer Government in the Transvaal will be put an end to, and the victorious British army will soon rend the air with shouts of joy.

The Boers have now been sadly disillusioned. They had expected a division in their favour in Parliament, and hoped that party differences would weaken the Government. But the British Parliament has unanimously declared in favour of war. The Boers have also now lost all hope of receiving any help from any Continental Power. Lord Salisbury, in a recent speech, declared that he would not allow any Power to interfere in the Transvaal war. In the face of this declaration, it is not to be expected that any Continental Power would come to the help of the Boers.

The French are a sworn enemy of the British, and many of them are willing to help the Boers. They are raising subscriptions for this purpose. But very little money has so far been raised. The cost of a war between two civilised countries is nowadays most likely to be ruinously heavy. Those who are dissatisfied with the British may help their enemy, but their help will be of very little value to their friends.

The Transvaal has received the help of the Orange Free State, but that help will not enable it to hold out against the English for a long time. But if the impossible become possible, and if a European Power takes the side of the Boers, South Africa will become the scene of a great conflagration.

HITAVADI,

7. The same paper writes as follows with reference to Boer treachery and meanness:—

Boer treachery and meanness.

In the present war, the Boers have twice given proofs of their meanness. Nothing could be more treacherous than to fire upon the enemy after showing the white flag. We are glad to learn that they received a severe lesson at the hands of the British for this meanness and treachery. At Elands Laagte the Boers first displayed their meanness. They at first agreed to allow the bearers of the wounded to pass unmolested. But as soon as they came within reach of their guns they fired upon them.

The Boer General says that all this happened without his knowledge, and that the treachery was committed by low-class Boers. But even if we accept

this explanation, we should like to know how he explains the conduct of his soldiers at Dewdorp. Boer meanness and treachery are notorious. In the first Transvaal war, the Boers showed the white flag at Ingogo. The British General accepted this offer of "ceasing fire" and showed the white flag. As soon as the white flag was shown by the British it served as a signal for fire from the Boer ranks. The same foul trick was repeated at Majuba and other places. What have the Boers to say to this charge?

8. The *Bangavasi* of the 18th November has the following with reference to the rumour of Russian preparations with the object of invading Afghanistan:—

The rumoured Russian advance on Afghanistan.

BANGAVASI.
Nov. 18th, 1899.

Such news as this is not good news during the Transvaal war. To the weak-minded this news will prove a source of fear and apprehension. To the enemy of the British Government, it will be quite welcome. In our opinion, there is no cause for panic even if the news be true. What need we fear if a war is declared between England and Russia? England is in no way inferior to Russia; she is by no means inferior to Russia in wealth, strength and intelligence. If Russia had found England weak and resourceless, she would have annexed India long before. The Russian Bear always fears the British Lion.

The British Government is at present on friendly terms with the Amir, and it is impossible for Russia to undermine his loyalty. The Amir, with the help of English money, is buying arms and ammunition, building forts and strengthening frontier fortifications. With the help of English engineers and artisans, the Amir has also opened factories for the manufacture of arms and ammunition which are turning out a vast quantity of war material. The Amir is no longer the Amir of twenty years back. He is now strong in arms and ammunition and stratagem. The Afghan army also has been efficiently trained and equipped, and the Afghans are no longer the enemy but the friend of the British Government. The Russian army will not be able to gain an easy victory over the Afghan army. Backed by an English army, the Afghan army is sure to defeat the Russian army, should Russia dare to invade Afghanistan.

The North-Western frontier of India is well-guarded and Landi Kotal and Ali Musjid have been fortified. A few machine-guns placed on Ali Musjid will successfully oppose an invading army, and their fire will tell with murderous effect. The Khyber Pass, again, is almost inaccessible. On two sides of it rise lofty mountains, and the defile is so narrow that two men cannot pass through it abreast. If a well-manned artillery is placed on the ridges of these mountains, no invading army can march through the Pass. It is much more impossible to invade India in the direction of Chitral. The mountains on this side of India are covered with snow for eight months in the year. There are impregnable fortresses in Chitral mounted with formidable guns. This path, therefore, is practically closed against an invading army. The path through Kandahar is not also safe for an invading army. Quetta and Chaman are well fortified. It is simply impossible for a Russian army to invade India.

But Russia will never venture to invade India. She will never dare to declare war against England. The rumour of a Russian invasion is most probably unfounded. It would be a great surprise should the Czar, who called the Peace Conference, be the first to enter upon a war.

9. The same paper calls upon Hindus to contribute to the Transvaal war fund which has been opened in India. The

The Transvaal War Fund.

writer also advises the Hindus to follow the example of the Musalmans of Lahore and chant the sacred *Chandi* and pray to Mother Kali for British victory in the Transvaal war.

BANGAVASI.

10. The same paper writes as follows:—

Boer oppression of Indians in the Transvaal.

Mr. Gandhi, the well-known Gujrati Barrister of Johannesburg, has written us a letter, complaining of Boer oppression of Indians in the Transvaal. We are told that no Indian is allowed to live in Johannesburg, on the plea that Indians residing in the town will prejudicially affect its sanitary condition. The Indian residents of Johannesburg have been ordered to remove to a hill at a distance of three miles from the town. The refuse of the town is thrown near this hill, which has been therefore made absolutely uninhabitable.

BANGAVASI.

There is also no water-supply on this hill. Mr. Gandhi has submitted a memorial to the British Government on behalf of the six thousand Indians in Johannesburg. The Transvaal war has broken out immediately after the submission of the memorial, and the Indians have all fled.

HABLUL MATEEN,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

11. The *Hablul Mateen* of the 20th November says that England has stopped the annual allowance which she formerly used to pay to the Imam of Muscat either as a permanent allowance or in lieu of Zanzibar. It is impossible to describe the manner in which the Imam is being treated. Suffice it to say that nothing remains as surplus out of the resources of his State. In this poor condition Muscat, last year, had to meet with a difficulty. The present Imam was summoned to an English man-of-war. He sent his brother in his stead, but the brother was sent back. The Imam ultimately went on board the man-of-war advising his brother to take vengeance if he was murdered.

HABLUL MATEEN

12. The same paper has the following:—

A duty of the new Persian Consul in Calcutta.

At the meeting held at the residence of Rustamji Mehta, the Persian Consul, for the purpose of reading the *firman* issued by His Majesty the Shah of Persia conferring upon the editor of the *Hablul Mateen* the title of *Moayed-ul-Islam* (supporter of Islam) and appointing Mr. R. Mehta, Consul for Persia, Shams-ul-Ulama Shaikh Mahmud Gilani, in his speech, said that as His Majesty's intention was to keep peace and friendship with all Powers in the world and specially with neighbouring rulers, the new Consul should bear in mind that it ought to be his duty to try his best to keep peace and friendship between England and Persia.

HABLUL MATEEN.

13. The *Hablul Mateen* of the 20th November says that although the Boers in their recent war with the English have gained some signal victories in a few battles, they

The Transvaal war.

are sure to be defeated in the long run. When the English will commence warfare with the Boers on a gigantic scale, the latter will not be able to oppose the English troops. The Orange Free State is co-operating with the Transvaal. It is, therefore, evident that it will take the English a long time to crush the Boers. The greater portion of the Foreign press is up to this time silent, but from the writings of a small section of it, it appears that it intends to set the European Powers against the English. English statesmen have made a mistake in making war with the Boers, because even victory in this war will be as bad as defeat. Although the Boers are the aggressors and their ultimatum to the English compelled the latter to take up arms against them, the English ought to be lenient to them. From the Russian, German and other European press it appears that the European Powers, who have sympathy with the Boers, will not allow the English to conquer the Transvaal, and will consequently intercede on behalf of the Boers, if they are defeated. Some English statesmen also are against the Boer war.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 14th, 1899.

14. A correspondent, writing in the *Charu Mihir* of the 14th November, complains that *badmashes* in Mymensingh have adopted new methods of oppression. They are stealing cows and killing them in the nearest fields for the flesh. The cows of Mahar Chand Karmakar, Jatra Majhi, Bakshi Shaikh of village Daswika, and of Seru Mondal of Jokar Char have been destroyed in this way. Being illiterate and poor people, they have lodged no complaints.

A new form of badmashi in Mymensingh.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

15. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th November says that one Akshay Ray of village Sirsa within the jurisdiction of the Barajor police station, in the Bankura district, has been forcibly taken to a cooly depôt and confined by cooly recruiters. Nothing has since been heard of him.

A case of forcible cooly recruitment.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 18th, 1899.

16. The *Bangavasi* of the 18th November complains of recrudescence of dacoity. There have been two dacoities in Bali, and one in Belur in the Howrah district within a very short time. It is said that among those who have been arrested as having

Dacoity in the Howrah district.

been implicated in one of the two dacoities in Bali, there are operatives working in the Lillooah workshop of the East Indian Railway. It is said that a beggar woman went to the house of the Surs of Bali and found many ornaments on the person of a lady. She conveyed the information to the dacoits, who entered the house at night and ill-treated the lady in question for ornaments on finding none on her body. It is alleged that dacoity was not so frequent at Bali and its neighbourhood before the railway workshop was opened at Lillooah.

17. The *Samiran* of the 22nd November complains that there is a recrudescence of *gunda* oppression at Ahiritola in Calcutta. Some years ago, many of the *gundas* were punished for oppressing the residents of that quarter and harassing the police. Since then nothing was heard of them. But they have again begun to oppress people. The other night they robbed a gentleman of Rs. 40. Robbery and rioting are their profession.

SAMIRAN,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

18. The *Sanjivani* of the 16th November has the following in a paragraph headed "A just Judge":—

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

Mr. Pennell's punishment.

Instead of rewarding Mr. Pennell, the District Judge of Chapra, for the noble courage and love of justice evinced by him in the strictures he has passed on the conduct of the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. Corbett; the District Engineer, Mr. Simkins; the Deputy Magistrate, Maulvi Zakir Hossein; the Magistrate, Mr. Twidell; and the Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Bourdillon, the Government of Bengal is about to subject him to harassment; has indeed transferred him to the worst district in the Province. That the Government has punished Mr. Pennell instead of doing honour to his many virtues as an Englishman, and rewarding him for the noble courage and love of justice displayed by him in his impartial judgment in the Chapra case, is what has extremely surprised, stupefied, and grieved the entire country. Nobody had so long been able to imagine that the power of the Civilian clique would receive such an undue development even under the administration of an impartial Lieutenant-Governor like Sir John Woodburn. This is not the first time that Mr. Pennell has shown such love of justice and independence of mind. Once when he was officiating as the Additional Judge of Dacca, a charge of incendiarism was brought by the servants of the well-known Mr. Garth against some men of the Kundu Babus of Bhagyakul. The case was tried by Mr. Pennell with the aid of a jury, the great majority of whom held the defendants guilty. But the Judge could not agree with them, and wrote to the High Court questioning the soundness of the verdict. The Judges of the High Court were convinced by Mr. Pennell's arguments, and praised him highly, and directed the acquittal of the defendants. It is a matter of deep regret and apprehension that instead of rewarding such a fearless, dutiful and righteous Judge for his moral courage, impartiality and equitable administration of justice, the Bengal Government has inflicted a punishment on him. It is a matter of fear, because this spectacle of his disgrace and degradation will produce fear in the minds of others, and thereby make an impartial administration of justice impossible in this country. The Lieutenant-Governor can yet reward Mr. Pennell's virtues and cancel his transfer. If His Honour does that, the whole country will praise him.

19. The *Prativasi* of the 20th November has the following:—We hear that Mr. Pennell will have to ask pardon of both the India and the Bengal Government for making

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

Mr. Pennell.

sneering remarks regarding them in his judgment in the Narsingh case. We admit that Mr. Pennell was wrong in making reflections on the Government, but we also say that the Government ought to ask pardon of Narsingh, considering how he was persecuted by its executive officers. After Mr. Pennell has asked pardon of the Government, the Government should express its gratitude to him for drawing its attention to such illegal conduct on the part of the executive.

20. The *Som Prakash* of the 20th November says that the Government instead of rewarding the conscientious and impartial Judge, Mr. Pennell, for doing his duty, has trans-

SOM PRAKASH,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

Mr. Pennell's transfer.

ferred him to an unhealthy place like Noakhali, in bad health. The writer believes that this must be the doing of the Secretary, unknown to Sir John Woodburn. Mr. Pennell has brought this fact to the notice of the High Court, and the writer hopes that Sir Francis Maclean will consider his case carefully and see him transferred to a healthy place.

SAMIRAN,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

21. The *Samiran* of the 22nd November says that the Subdivisional Officer of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, sentenced one Girish Chandra Biswas to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50 for an offence under the excise law, the maximum punishment for which is three months' imprisonment. On finding out his mistake, the Subdivisional Officer wrote to the District Magistrate to reduce the sentence and the prisoner also appealed to the District Judge. None of them, however, has reduced his sentence, and he is now rotting in jail. The public will be glad to see Sir John Woodburn remove this grievance during his tour in Chittagong.

SRI SRI VISHNUPRIYA-
O-ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnupriya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 22nd November has the following:—On the 14th September last, the European Deputy Magistrate of Sitamarhi, in the Bhagalpur district, saw three passers-by loudly talking before his bungalow and at once ordered his *chaprasi* to arrest them. They were placed before the Sub-Deputy Magistrate and convicted under section 160 of the Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to a fine of Rs. 10 each. They appealed to the District Magistrate, who acquitted them, and ordered the fine to be refunded. These men were the servants of Babu Ranga Bihari Lal, a local zamindar, who was going to Bankipore on urgent business and was waiting for his men at the station. He had to postpone his journey, as his servants were under arrest. Who is responsible for the loss caused to Ranga Lal Babu? Is it right for the Government to entrust a man with the charge of a subdivision, who cannot even bear a little loud talk?

SAMIRAN,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

23. The *Samiran* of the 22nd November has the following:—
Mr. Pennell's transfer. We hear that all the executive officers at Chapra were dissatisfied with Mr. Pennell for his decision in Narsingh's case, and it is owing to the Commissioner that he has been transferred to an unhealthy place like Noakhali. We must understand from this that those officers who will not support the illegal acts of the executive will incur the displeasure of the superior officers. This, at least, is the general impression, and that is why the public are saying so much about Mr. Pennell's transfer to Noakhali. This does not speak well for the Government. The officials generally complain that the people do not show such respect to them as they did before. This is partially true. The people worship Sir John Lawrence and have a very high opinion of Lord Ripon. At present, they are not wanting in respect for Sir John Woodburn and Lord Curzon, and the reason is not that these rulers have fulfilled all their hopes, but that they express sympathy with them. Who knew Mr. Pennell before? Before the Chapra case he must have been transferred to many places, and no one had cared to know where he was posted. In the present case he did his duty by trying to protect the weak from oppression by the strong, and that is why the people are loud in his praise. The Indians are ever grateful to those officials who show the least regard for justice and duty. It is not at all strange that the superior officers of the administration, who support the illegal acts of the executive, instead of censuring them for it, should lose the respect of the people. The people would have been grateful to the Government, if it had punished the executive for their illegal acts, instead of transferring Mr. Pennell with the view of pleasing them. Everybody sees how the people are loud in their praise of Lord Curzon for his Resolution on the Rangoon outrage case.

(d)—Education.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

24. A correspondent, writing in the *Basumati* of the 16th November, says that Abinash Babu, Inspector of Schools, has no mines at Barakar. The editor remarks that he may have no mines at Barakar, but he has mines somewhere else in the Burdwan district. The correspondent is requested to

inform the editor if what he wrote about the litigation regarding mines and the arbitration by the Maharaja of Kasimbazar is false or not.

25. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th November has the following :—

Lord Curzon's educational policy.

When Lord Curzon was appointed Viceroy, every one expected that the Educational Department would be thoroughly overhauled. Lord Curzon is a highly educated ruler, and it was expected that he would be uncommonly interested in high education. Unhappily, however, the public has been sadly disappointed. The recent Resolution of the Government of India on education has given a rude shock to many.

There would have been no cause for disappointment, if Lord Curzon had not been an educated, experienced, just, impartial and independent ruler. We have become accustomed to official frowning and highhandedness. There would, indeed, have been no cause for regret if Lord Curzon's brilliant genius had not attracted public notice; if he had not made a mark in England as a politician of note; if he had not assured us of his intention to govern the people well, and if he had not by some acts already given effect to his good intentions.

In its Resolution on the quinquennial review of education in India, the Government of India advises the Provincial Governments to pay greater attention to primary education. There would have been nothing to object to in this advice, if it had not been supplemented by the request to curtail the expenditure on high education. There is a large field for primary education in the country, and we request the Government to devote its attention to its promotion. The more are the masses educated the better for the country. But that is no reason why high education should be neglected.

Liberal-minded Englishmen are always proud of the Indians who have received high education. Is it not a glory and a pride to the British Government that educated natives are helping the officials in the administration of the country? Is not this one of the best and sweetest fruits of British rule? We had hoped that Lord Curzon would look upon high education in this country in this light. But we have been disappointed.

We fail to understand why Lord Curzon thinks that the Government need not take care of high education in this country. There are, we know, some narrow-minded Englishmen who look upon every movement of the educated Indian with suspicion and are tormented with jealousy to see ability in an educated native. We are not disposed to class Lord Curzon with these men. He has given proofs of his large-heartedness in various ways, and we feel great hesitation in looking upon him as an enemy of high education.

It is said that the Government is always anxious to promote primary education. But the existing system of primary education is producing undesirable consequences. It is, in fact, gradually losing the sympathy of the Indian public. In this poor country people give their children a little education in order that they may earn their bread. But primary education no longer qualifies any man for any branch of service or for any profession. Formerly, people could qualify themselves for law and medicine after passing the Middle-English or the Middle-Vernacular Examination. But that is no longer the case. The children of the poorer classes, therefore, take no interest in primary education. It is a wise policy to encourage primary education after it has been deprived of all its practical value.

One thing more should be taken into consideration. We do not know whether in any other civilised country the Government spends so little on education. If the Government vigorously applies the pruning knife to its unnecessary expenditure, it will never be in want of money, and will easily be able to spend more on education. Lord Curzon would have been entitled to the gratitude of the public if he had advised the Local Governments to increase their expenditure on education.

Happily, however, the people of this country have once tasted high education and have been convinced of its excellence. They have come to know that high education is necessary to make them men. It will, therefore, be no great harm even if the Government throws obstacles in the path of high education, although it must be admitted that private efforts backed by Government help would have considerably promoted its cause. The distinction of colour observed by the Government in making appointments in the Education

HITAVADI,
Nov. 17th, 1899.

Department is a stain on its fair fame. But even this unjust and invidious distinction has not retarded the progress of high education. Will the new educational policy of the Government retard its progress? We never dreamt that high education in India would receive such a blow from Lord Curzon. We hope, however, that he will try to remove the stain which has been cast upon his fair fame by his new educational policy.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 17th, 1899.

The last vernacular examinations
in the Eastern Circle.

26. A correspondent complains in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 17th November that the first and second questions on Poetry set at the last Upper Primary Examination in the Eastern Circle were taken from outside the text-book. In the paper on Physical Science no question was set from "*Saral Bijan*." In the Middle-Vernacular Examination the questions of Geography were outside the text-book. These and other irregularities in the examination prevented the candidates from answering the questions satisfactorily. It is hoped that the Inspector of the Circle will take the case of the poor candidates into consideration.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 18th, 1899.

Lord Curzon's Education Reso-
lution.

27. The *Bangavasi* of the 18th November has the following :—
Lord Curzon has shown originality in reviewing the quinquennial report on education in India. Unlike his predecessors, he has not satisfied himself with praising the Provincial Governments. He has freely criticised their conduct wherever he has discovered flaws in it.

Lord Curzon attributes indifference in the matter of education to the District Magistrates, and has taken the Local Governments to task for their neglect and indifference. The District Officer, remarks His Excellency, has many a burden laid on him, but village school inspection is a very necessary duty and must be insisted on.

The Government of India finds fault with the nature of the supervision exercised over education by the Local Governments. Lord Curzon plainly says that "the perusal of the Report gives an unfavourable opinion of the progress that has been made, of the manner in which previous orders of the Government of India are observed by the Local Governments, and of the general system of management and control. Local Governments have not only in many respects neglected the principles laid down by the Government of India, but have also divested themselves of responsibility and left educational administration in the hands of subordinate authorities, or of irresponsible and sometimes incompetent persons." Lord Curzon's remarks are rightly and justly applicable to a large number of Sub-Inspectors, Inspecting Pandits and Circle Pandits, who are notoriously incompetent and irresponsible. But these officers are very inadequately paid. Better results could not be expected from Sub-Inspectors on Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 a month, Inspecting Pandits on Rs. 20, and Circle Pandits on Rs. 15. Supervision and inspection alone cannot increase the efficiency of the inspecting staff.

It is clear from the Resolution that it is the policy of the Government to encourage vernacular and technical education almost exclusively. English or high education will henceforward receive very little support from the Government. In the Viceroy's opinion, Bombay and the Central Provinces have made much more satisfactory advance in this direction than Bengal and the other Provinces. The Bengal Government has been taken to task for its neglect of primary and technical education. The Viceroy has also taken the Madras Government to task for remarks favourable to high education made by Lord Wenlock in a speech delivered five years ago. Many of Lord Curzon's remarks are open to objection, and the Local Governments may protest against some of them.

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

Lord Curzon's Education Reso-
lution.

28. The *Prativasi* of the 20th November has the following :—
So this Resolution comes from the Secretariat of Lord Curzon, who spoke so eloquently in praise of high education in his Convocation speech; who gave it out as his opinion that an acquaintance with Literature, Science and Philosophy was sure to improve the intellect who admitted that Indian Universities were far inferior to the Oxford and Cambridge Universities; who was sorry to see the Government indifferent to the promotion of education, and who regretted that there was no officer to advise the Government of India in

educational matters. If it is the impression of Lord Curzon that the Government can safely withdraw from the field of high education now that so many private colleges have been opened in Calcutta and other towns, then must we say that His Excellency would not have been of this opinion if he had known how education is imparted in these colleges. The private colleges are, in fact, ruining the students intellectually. They are, so to say, mere shops, and students go there simply because they have to attend a certain percentage of lectures. In some colleges the students are not provided even with ample sitting accommodation; they have to sit in tiled rooms or in corridors. Most of the Professors of these colleges have other occupations besides teaching. Some are pleaders and others are otherwise occupied. They can snatch only a few hours from their many occupations to devote to teaching. Most colleges are not furnished with laboratories, and many of them do not regularly pay their Professors. The Professors have no power to keep the students within the bounds of discipline. Those who have ever come into contact with private colleges know that all these defects constitute a great stain on them. High education has become, so to say, a marketable commodity in these colleges. There is no Vidyasagar in these days to spend money liberally for the promotion of the cause of high education. There are not many colleges conducted on the lines of the Fergusson College in Bombay, which is being efficiently managed by self-sacrificing and patriotic Indian scholars. When there will be many Fergusson Colleges in India, then will be the time for the Government to leave high education to the care of private individuals.

Our students, desirous only of passing examinations, are acquiring only a smattering knowledge of Literature, Science and Mathematics. If the Government retires from the field of high education, the number of private colleges conducted on mercenary lines will increase to the great intellectual detriment of the students. In this country there is no enthusiasm in the doing of good, no sincerity, no admiration for goodness and greatness, no love for country and countrymen, nothing but selfishness. It is imperfect education which is at the root of all this. Our students in their colleges are given no opportunity to draw noble inspiration from their books, and no noble examples of goodness and greatness, or of love of knowledge are set before them. Their only aim is to secure the diplomas of the Universities, and with these passports they are sapping the very foundation of manhood. Will Lord Curzon increase the number of these educational shops? If the Government withdraws its help from high education which is still in immaturity, it will have soon to experience the evil consequences of its mistaken policy.

29. The same paper says that a Resolution of the Government of Bengal has been published in the *Calcutta Gazette* to the effect that though the result of the agricultural instruction given in the agricultural department of the Sibpur Engineering College is partially satisfactory, the subjects of study ought to be increased. The writer says that he has come to know from the students of the college that they are already overburdened with a large number of subjects, and he does not, therefore, understand how the Lieutenant-Governor could propose to increase the subjects of study.

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

30. The *Hitakari* of the 15th November has the following:—There is a ditch belonging to Babu Kailas Chandra Gupta, a local pleader, at Amlapara in Kushtia, district Nadia. Complaints against the Kushtia Municipality. Notice has been given to the Babu to fill up the excavation, though the water in it has not become foul. But the Commissioners have done nothing in regard to another man who has encroached upon the municipal land, and is fouling the water of the municipal ditch near the Municipal office room. The pools of water, one to the west of the house of Tarini Babu, a zamindar, and another to the south of the house of Banka Bihari Nandi, have become very filthy and injurious to health. It has become absolutely necessary to do something in regard to these two pools of water.

HITAKARI,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

A ratepayer, named Mia Jan Nikari has erected three lodging-houses by the roadside, and has encroached upon municipal land. We heard that

some time ago, he was served with a notice in this matter, but we want to know what action has been taken by the Municipality. There are two roadside ponds, one near the house of the said Nikari and another to the west of the tenanted house of the same person. The Nikari steeps bamboos in the pond near the tenanted house, thereby fouling its water, and the water from the privy attached to that house falls into the excavation on the south.

HITAKARI,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

31. The same paper says that Babu Dwarika Nath Pramanik, who has been elected as the Officiating Chairman of the Kumarkhali Municipality, is quite ignorant of municipal work, having been nominated as a Commissioner by Government only three or four months ago, and is deeply involved in debt. The rate-payers are not satisfied with his election.

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

32. The *Sansodhini* of the 15th November says that cow-pox is raging furiously in Chittagong town, and more than a hundred cows have died of it in a few days. Speedy measures ought to be taken to prevent it from assuming an epidemic form.

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

33. The *Prativasi* of the 20th November has the following:—Malaria is raging furiously in Bengal. Such prevalence of malaria was not seen in Bengal for the last twenty years. Every village, nay every house is affected, and in some houses whole families are laid up. The people are not loud in giving expression to their suffering, either because the percentage of deaths from this malady is low, or because the disease is not so very acute, and there is no talk of segregation and disinfection on account of Europeans not being generally attacked by it. It is true that many die in seasons of plague or cholera, but those who survive those epidemics do not suffer from physical or mental debility. Nearly 95 per cent. of the entire population of Bengal are suffering from malaria, and though not more than 6 per cent die of it, those who survive its attacks lose all vitality, and torpid liver, dyspepsia, acidity, cerebral weakness (whether from quinine or malaria, we do not know), loss of energy are among its natural consequences. Many persons die after suffering three or four years from this malady. Formerly those who lived abroad for service used to come to their native villages during the Puja holidays, and the many wants of the villages were satisfied by them. The poor were fed, sick men were properly treated and cared for, roads were repaired, and village squabbles were amicably settled. But now they do not come to their native villages for fear of catching this malady and go up-country to spend the holidays. Those who resolve to pass the entire vacation in the village are sure to catch this malady. They have also to swallow large doses of quinine, which lead to repeated attacks of fever, dyspepsia or dysentery, and untimely death. In this way many families have been ruined. It is malaria which is reducing the number of Kayasthas and Brahmans in the Burdwan, Jessore, Pabna and other districts. Malaria is most prevalent at the end of the rainy season, and many think that it is bred in the filthy water of tanks and ponds and by rotten leaves and plants. So if measures are not taken to drain away the filthy water in the villages, and if arrangements are not made to supply pure water to the villagers, malaria will never disappear from the country. In some villages, vegetation is so rank that the sun scarcely penetrates through it. This jungle must be cleared. The re-excavation of tanks and ponds may be done by the villagers themselves, and if they fail, the matter should receive the attention of the District Boards. If all villagers make it a point to kindle at least two fires every day on two sides of their houses, we think that the malady may be somewhat checked. This will serve two purposes. Mosquitoes will die in the fire and many poisonous gases will be consumed. The villagers will not have to incur any expense for doing this, as the leaves and trunks of the trees which will be cut down will form excellent fuel. If everyone makes it a point to drink an infusion of jute leaves every day, there will be little chance of his being attacked with malaria. The villagers are generally very ignorant people, and the District Boards ought to take the matter into their hands.

SOM PRAKASH,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

34. The *Som Prakash* of the 20th November writes as follows:—
The health of Santipur, district Nadia, was excellent some time ago. The inhabitants had no experience whatever of cholera or fever. But, alas! such an excellent place

is now on the verge of ruin! Its sanitary condition has seriously deteriorated, and if it is not speedily improved, the place will be ruined in the course of twenty or twenty-five years. The causes of the spread of malaria in this place are the following:—

(1) The drainage system being defective, rain-water is soaked into the soil. Some years ago, the necessity for *pucka* drains in this place was specially pointed out in the Annual Municipal Administration Report.

(2) There are four or five hundred well-privies built some forty or fifty years ago. These have not been cleared since their construction, and are hot beds of malaria. There are other well-privies built some ten or fifteen years ago, which have not been cleared even once, and it is needless to say that these privies will also become dangerous like the others after a few more years.

Let the drainage system be improved and let service privies be introduced in the place of these well-privies. The inhabitants will, of course, have to bear an additional taxation, but are they not already losing much money in the shape of doctor's fees and cost of medicines? We draw the attention of our popular Lieutenant-Governor and of our worthy Commissioner, Mr. Buckland, to this matter. We draw the attention of Government to another fact. *Chars* have been formed in many places in the river at Santipur. If the river be silted up the people will be in great difficulty for water.

35. The *Sri Sri Vishnupriya-o-Anando Bazar Patrika* of the 22nd November has the following:—

Malaria in Bengal.

Malaria is doing a great havoc among the inhabitants of Bengal. Goto any district, nay, any village in Bengal, and you will see that the inhabitants are suffering from malaria. You will see many deserted houses overgrown with jungle. If you enquire you will know that thirty or forty years ago, the condition of the village and its inhabitants was far better. The population was larger, the inhabitants were healthy, and the village was not so full of jungle. It is only within the last few years that the condition of the villagers has become so deplorable, and malaria is the cause of the sad change. We believe that the official death registers are not carefully kept, otherwise it would have been seen that nearly two millions of people die of malaria alone in Bengal. We hear of many causes of malaria, but these causes were in existence before malaria broke out. Vegetable matter has always rotted in the fields, there was jungle in the villages and mosquitoes were plentiful, but the condition of the villages was not so bad. The rate at which the death-rate is increasing, makes us fear that in the course of a century the population will be fearfully reduced. Why has malaria assumed such a deadly form? A disease generally loses its virulence with time, but this cannot be said of malaria. Why is malaria spreading so rapidly? It is because the people are growing poorer every day and the country is losing its wealth. There was formerly no export trade, and people got sufficient food, and were healthy and cheerful. Now the prices of food-grains have risen owing to the export trade, and people are growing weaker, and are therefore unable to resist maladies. If this poverty of the people be not removed, malaria will not leave the country. If there had been no poverty, people would not have been so weak, and would not have fallen an easy prey to malaria. There was defective drainage in past times, but it did not do any harm. It has now become the exciting cause of malaria. The harm which is being done by want of good drinking water is less than the harm which is being done by bad drainage. The Lieutenant-Governor is going out on tour, and we hope that he will kindly enquire about the supply of drinking water in the villages, through which he will pass. This want will not be removed if efforts to do so are not made from this time. It is true that the District Boards are entrusted with this work, but they cannot do anything for want of funds.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigations.*

36. The *Sansodhini* of the 8th November says that at present passengers for Chandpur have to change train at Laksham on the Assam-Bengal Railway. They would be saved a good deal of trouble and inconvenience, if a few additional carriages were

The Assam-Bengal Railway.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDO BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 8th, 1899.

attached to the Chandpur Mail. The number of passengers from Chittagong to Assam being very small, a few carriages may be detached from the Assam Mail and attached to the Chandpur Mail. The carriages for Chandpur ought to have the word "Chandpur" written on them in large characters. There is no waiting-room at Chandpur, and female passengers suffer a good deal on that account.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Nov. 13th, 1899.

37. A correspondent of the *Tripura Hitaishi* of the 13th November complains of the inconvenience experienced by the local public on account of there being no good roads in village Sachar, district Tippera. In 1895, Mr. Skrine, the then Magistrate of the district, felt this want, and a road was being constructed from Sachar to Elliotganj. The work had, however, to be given up for want of funds. Since then no attempt has been made to complete the work. Water from the surrounding places comes upon the road during the rainy season, and makes its condition wretched.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 14th, 1899.

38. The *Charu Mihir* of the 14th November complains that the road from Mymensingh to Tangail through Madhupur is in a very deplorable condition. There is a bamboo bridge over the road between Tangail and Kalihati and carriages cannot pass over it. There are also ruts on the road for which it is very difficult to use it specially at night. In other years, the District Board repaired it just after the rainy season, and the writer does not understand why its repair has not been undertaken this year also.

MANBHUM,
Nov. 14th, 1899.

39. The *Manbhumi* of the 14th November has the following:—
The Bengal Nagpur Railway. Bengal-Nagpur Railway line, though it was opened some twenty years ago. Judging from its traffic, it appears that it is a profitable concern, but from the scant accommodation made for passengers, one cannot but help thinking that the company is labouring under the greatest pecuniary difficulties, or its Directors are a set of undutiful, heartless and indifferent people. The sufferings of the passengers are beyond endurance, and complaints are also heard in connection with its goods traffic. A short while ago, we made a complaint, but we have not heard what steps have been taken to provide proper accommodation for passengers. The number of third class passengers on this line is very large, but the number of third class carriages is very small. Very often third class passengers have to travel in wagons, and this causes great suffering to them. The intermediate class passengers fare as badly as the others. We do not know whether there is any difference between an intermediate and a third class carriage on this line. Intermediate class passengers have often to travel third class. If any of them objects to do so, a piece of pasteboard with the words "intermediate class" on it is attached to a third class compartment. The lower class carriages are not often lighted, and passengers suffer the greatest inconvenience on that account. Once the writer came to Asansol after dark in order to catch the train for Purulia. The writer had to wait on the open platform for a very long time before the train was formed. There was a great rush of passengers, and the train was overcrowded. Many third class passengers were placed in wagons. The writer was very much inconvenienced for want of room, and would not have been able to go by that train if a gentleman had not kindly made a little room for him in a third class compartment.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

40. A correspondent, writing in the *Medini Bandhav* of the 15th November, complains that owing to the silting up of the *khaals* which drain the villages in the Amarasi pargana in the Midnapore district, there occur floods in them every year, and the flood water remains on the fields till the commencement of the next hot season, preventing cultivation of any kind. The zamindars and the raiyats are ready to pay half the expense of their re-excavation if the Government pays the other half.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

41. Referring to the railway collision at the Naihati station on the Eastern Bengal Railway, the *Basumati* of the 16th November expresses its surprise that no life has been lost in the accident, although many people travel by the Chittagong Express.

42. The same paper says that the public will be greatly inconvenienced if the Chittagong Express be discontinued. Passengers

BASUMATI,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

The proposed discontinuance of the Chittagong Express.

for Chittagong reach Goalundo at 11 A.M. by this train, and immediately catch the steamer for Chandpur. If this express is discontinued, they will have to go by the night Goalundo mail, and this will cause them great inconvenience. Passengers for Calcutta travelling by the down express, which starts from Goalundo at 3 P.M., reach Calcutta at 7-30 P.M. If the express be discontinued, they will reach Calcutta on the following morning. Besides, there is no other train for Goalundo during the whole day after that which leaves Calcutta at 7 A.M.

43. The *Prativasi* of the 20th November complains that the train which reaches Khulna at 4-30 P.M., and also the

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

The Bengal Central Railway.

night mail stop near the steamer ghât instead of stopping at the station. This causes great inconvenience to female passengers, as there is no waiting-room for them at the ghât. This inconvenience may be removed by removing the station to the ghât.

Under the present arrangement, the mails for Narayanganj and Barisal go by the 9-3 A.M. train, but the Narayanganj steamer never reaches Khulna at the right time, and the train has, therefore, to wait for it nearly an hour, and there is thus no fixed time for it to start. Under these circumstances, the mail ought to go by the night train.

(h)—General.

44. The *Samry* of the 17th November has the following :—

SAMRY,
Nov. 17th, 1899.

Mr. Hudson's retransfer.

We had expected a good deal from an active, able and dutiful ruler like Lord Curzon. But not only has he not fulfilled our hopes, but he has on the contrary excited fears in our mind in regard to him. The manner in which the Calcutta Municipal Bill has been amended by him speaks for itself. And it appears clearly from another act of his, that our hopes in regard to him will not be fulfilled. We see in the *Assam Gazette* of the 28th October, that the Government of India has again appointed Mr. Hudson, who was transferred to Sylhet by the Chief Commissioner of Assam for whipping an innocent man, Assistant Political Agent of Manipur. We are very much surprised at this order. The punishment which Mr. Cotton inflicted on Mr. Hudson was considered inadequate by the public. How could the Viceroy promote such a man?

45. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th November is glad to understand that Lord

HITAVADI,
Nov. 17th, 1899.

Lord Curzon's sympathy with clerks.

Curzon has permitted the clerks of the Public Works Department to leave Simla during the cold season. This, as well as his order prohibiting the practice of fining clerks, will be hailed as an inestimable boon.

46. The Viceroy, writes the same paper, spoke highly of plague inocula-

HITAVADI.

Lord Curzon on plague inoculation.

tion. He discountenanced the idea of compulsory inoculation, but advised the authorities to try to persuade people to get themselves inoculated. In Bombay, people are, in many cases, being forcibly inoculated, and the Viceroy's declaration in favour of inoculation may induce plague officers to treat people with greater highhandedness. In our opinion, Lord Curzon's praise of inoculation has been untimely and impolitic.

47. The same paper writes as follows :—

Mr. Hudson's retransfer.

Lord Curzon's order cancelling Mr. Cotton's decision and retransferring Mr. Hudson to Manipur has pained the Indian public. The people expected justice from him. They did not expect that, misled by his love for his countrymen, he would refrain from punishing an erring official.

HITAVADI.

48. The *Bangavasi* of the 18th November writes as follows with reference

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 18th, 1899.

The military sporting circular.

to the sporting circular issued by the Commander-in-Chief to all military authorities :—

That European soldiers out hunting now and then shoot Indian men, women and children instead of birds and wild beasts has now been made clear to the authorities. Our kindhearted Viceroy, as well as the Commander-in-Chief, admit this. The recent military sporting circular has done well to prohibit the

use of smooth-bore rifles and large bullets in sporting, and by requiring that no pass for sporting shall be granted to a party of soldiers among whom there is no one conversant with the vernacular of the Province. This circular will no doubt minimise the chances of the accidental shooting of natives by European soldiers, but it will not put a stop to cases of wilful shooting of natives.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Nov. 19th, 1899.

49. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 19th November complains that one of the European Magistrates at Dacca is in the habit of calling witnesses pigs (*suar-ki-tachha*) and other names and inflicting heavy punishments on prosecutions by the European Health Officer.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

50. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 20th November says that in congratulating the Governor of Bombay, Lord Curzon said that his successor, who was soon expected, would be as sagacious and keen-sighted as Lord Sandhurst. It appears that it is the custom for a high official to praise his subordinate, no matter whether his subordinate deserves that praise or not, and that the prestige of the British Government is maintained in this way. If the new ruler of Bombay be as just as Lord Sandhurst, the poor people of Bombay will be very unfortunate indeed. If he, who has never listened to complaints against plague officers, deserves the thanks of a kindhearted ruler like Lord Curzon, Bombay's misfortune must be great indeed.

SRI SRI VISHNUPRIYA-
O-ANANDA BAZAR
PRATIKA,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

51. The *Sri Sri Vishnupriya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 22nd November says that it was wrong in supposing in its last issue (Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 18th November; paragraph 33), that the cancellation of the order transferring Mr. Hudson from Manipur to Sylhet was due to some order from higher authorities. According to a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the withdrawal of the order was due to a representation made by Mr. Hudson himself, pointing out the pecuniary losses he would suffer in case of transfer. The tone of the representation shows that Mr. Hudson has come to his senses.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 17th, 1899.

52. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th November has the following:—

The Whipping Bill.

The Whipping Bill proposes to make whipping a punishment of general application. There is no doubt that the proposed law will do immense mischief to the country. Miscarriages of justice are never so frequent in any other civilised country as in India. This being the case, the application of whipping as a punishment should be restricted. If a Magistrate sentences a man to whipping by mistake, there is no chance of that mistake being rectified. The punishment is executed before the prisoner can appeal to a higher court. The higher court may declare him innocent, but whipping once executed cannot be recalled. The man finds no remedy for his suffering and loss of honour.

Here is a case to support our contention. One Mahim and two others were charged with theft before the Subdivisional Officer of Narayanganj. One of them stated that he had committed the theft at the instigation of Mahim and his companion. The Subdivisional Officer convicted Mahim on the strength of this statement, and sentenced him to a whipping of twenty stripes. The sentence was at once carried out. Mahim appealed to the High Court, but Mr. Justice Gordon declined to hear the appeal, on the ground that it was too late to give the prisoner any remedy.

There is no provision in the law to the effect that no sentence should be executed before any appeal that may be made by the prisoner has been heard. If Mr. Justice Gordon's example is followed, an innocent man sentenced to whipping will be deprived even of the advantage of being declared innocent. A provision should be made in the Whipping Bill to the effect that the sentence of whipping passed on an accused person should not be executed before his appeal has been heard.

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

53. The *Prativasi* of the 20th November says that the Calcutta Municipal Bill has received the assent of Lord Curzon. The Viceroy has asked the Bengal Government to inform those who had memorialised him against the Bill, that there is nothing in their petition, nor in the speeches

delivered in the Bengal Legislative Council, which can make him change his opinion with regard to the measure. The writer says that there never came to India high-minded men who not only express their sympathy with a conquered people in words, but also give practical proof of the same.

54. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 20th November says that if the Whipping

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 20th, 1899.

The Whipping Bill.

Bill be passed the discretion given to judicial officers in the matter of passing sentences of whipping will be enlarged. It is known to all that the judicial officers of this country inflict the punishment of whipping in most cases. If the power of whipping in the hands of the *Hakims* is enlarged, it will be a great misfortune to the country. A European Joint-Magistrate sentenced the muharrir of a mukhtar to whipping, although he was innocent. The muharrir in question having petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal against that official, His Honour, it is heard, has degraded the official. Lord Curzon ought to understand that it will not be at all advisable to enhance the power of whipping with which judicial officers are at present invested.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

55. The *Basumati* of the 16th November has the following:—

BASUMATI,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

The Bhagalpur disaster.

The disaster at Bhagalpur is of a much more serious nature than what has overtaken Darjeeling, but the Government and the public have not expressed that sympathy with the distressed at Bhagalpur, which they have done with the distressed at Darjeeling. The condition of the people at the Godda, Banka and Khaira subdivisions in the Sonthal Parganas district is deplorable. They are living on leaves of trees and roots of grass. Mr. Stark, the Subdivisional Officer of Godda, at first reported that there was no loss of life in his subdivision. The Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Fischer, believed him, and reported accordingly to the Commissioner. But Mr. Williams, Commissioner, did not place any faith in the report of the Subdivisional Officer, and went to personally inspect the Godda subdivision. From his account of the disaster derived from the local people, it is seen that nearly seven or eight hundred lives were lost in that subdivision alone. The Commissioner has called for an explanation from the Subdivisional Officer. Mr. C. Fisher of Burdwan is now Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas, and he has by his conduct, made the place too hot for the people. If the worthy and wise Mr. Carstairs had now been in office, the poor Sonthals would not have fared so ill. The Government has sanctioned *taccavi* grants to the distressed in these places. But Mr. Cumming, the kind-hearted Magistrate of Bhagalpur, is not satisfied with this arrangement, and says that five to seven thousand rupees ought to be distributed among the distressed to enable them to buy implements of husbandry and necessities of life. In his opinion, this is not the time for playing the farce of a *taccavi* grant. The Government has approved of Mr. Cumming's suggestions. The Rajas of Benoli and Khaira, and the Maharaja of Gidhour and the landholders of the Sonthal Parganas are distributing money and rice among the distressed people within their own zamindaris. The distress among *jotedars*, *thikadars*, and the raiyats of Government khas mahals, is indescribable. The Sonthal Parganas appear to be beyond the pale of British rule. While the Christian Missionaries are doing their utmost to save the Sonthal converts; they are doing nothing for non-Christian Sonthals. Why did more than 20,000 Sonthals leave the jungle in the Sonthal Parganas and fly to the Akdala jungle? Why did they enter the dense forest of Malda? Why is the number of Sonthals in Damini Koh annually decreasing? Can Mr. Fischer answer these questions? Mr. Beames, the late Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division, tried his best to make the non-regulation Sonthal Parganas a regulation district. Who frustrated his attempt? We appeal to Sir John Woodburn, whom we know to be a kind, religious and good ruler. He will be able to know the real state of things, if he only kindly takes the trouble of making a little enquiry. The Bengalis and the Sonthals are alike British subjects. Why then this difference in their treatment? The Sonthals are an ignorant and uncivilised people. They rise against the English and die in thousands before English rifles, whenever tyranny becomes unbearable to them.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

56. The same paper has the following:—

The famine.

Though weeks and months have passed, still we have not done with describing the deplorable condition of the distressed in the Central Provinces and in the Southern and Western parts of India. The Government has opened relief works in the famine-stricken places. The number of the distressed is daily increasing. The Viceroy himself is inspecting the famine-stricken parts of the country and is giving the people hopeful assurances, but still famine has not disappeared from the country. Famine will never disappear. It is going to be permanent in the country. There are already the plague and the malaria, and the famine will be added to them. All the gates of death are always open for the Indians. It is useless to fight against our destiny. What good will it do to a beggar, whose want is eternal, to be fed only for a few days? This life-long suffering will last so long as the crores of the Indian people do not die.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 16th, 1899.

57. The *Basumati* of the 16th November has the following in an article on Indian poverty:—

The clause of India's poverty.

A Brahman has a few bighas of land, from which he gets 500 maunds of paddy every year. Of these, 200 *maunds*, let us suppose, are required to feed his whole family and perform religious observances, and the remaining 300 *maunds* to buy clothes for his family, and perform social duties. If he could exchange his paddy for cloth, he would get his paddy's worth. But he has to sell his paddy to get money, and if he cannot do it advantageously, he is a loser. The price of English-made cloth is a fixed price. A pair of it does not last for more than four months, and on this computation, three pairs of it are required for every man in a family, and in a family of five persons, fifteen, at least, ten pairs are required. The price of these ten pairs is, on an average, Rs. 15. There are also many other items which cannot be avoided, because nothing can be had nowadays without money. Let us now turn to luxuries. Consider for instance, the umbrella. In the rainy season, an English-made umbrella and a country-made umbrella serve the same purpose. But the price of a country-made umbrella is a fixed price, whilst the price of an English-made umbrella varies from Re. 1-4 to Rs. 5. Now an Indian, who buys an English-made umbrella, has also to buy a native umbrella, as the English-made umbrella cannot be always used. Rs. 5 is thus unprofitably invested.

To earn money by trade is practically impossible for natives, as they have their rivals in Europeans. Export of the raw produce of the country is inevitable, as Englishmen themselves are the exporters. The export trade is being carried on on a large scale, and we are so much anxious to get cash, that there is scarcely enough food left for the people of the country. Many Englishmen say that the country is gaining wealth by the export trade. We admit this, but we find that our wealth is not equal to our wants. We sell our paddy very cheap for money to clear off debts and pay the revenue and other public demands. And then when we have to buy paddy for our food, we have to pay more than what we had got by selling our own paddy, the price of paddy having in the meantime risen. We thus find ourselves in want at the end of every year. Again, we are obliged to borrow money at enormous interest. This is the real cause of the poverty of the people of India. It is for this reason that we consider ourselves as good as lost, whenever there is the least chance of a drought, flood, or hailstorm. It is for this reason that the English Government has to spend crores of rupees to save the hungry and the distressed. There is no remedy for these evils. The English will disregard all entreaties and expostulations in this matter, as the export and the import trade are being carried on by them for gain. We as well they must live. They are powerful and know how to live, and we pass our days anyhow in suffering and destitution. This is our destiny and nobody can avert it.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 17th, 1899.

58. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 17th November contains the following from a correspondent:—

The objectionable Roman Catholic publication.

Please publish the following in the *Mihir-o-Sadhakar*. Your readers must no doubt have

learnt from your issues of the 30th June and 29th September (*vide* Report on Native Papers for the 8th July, paragraph 33, and 7th October, paragraph 35) that a Roman Catholic Christian has printed at the Subhakari Press of Jessore a book of 319 pages, entitled "Ascertainment of the true religion." (সত্য ধর্ম নিরূপণ). In pages 124 to 136 of the book, the writer has made a violent attack on the Musalman religion and the Prophet. The attack, which is couched in the most inhumanly offensive (*paisachic*) and foul language has highly offended the Musalman community. Many pious Musalmans pained by hearing of this attack on their religion have written to us for copies of the publication in question, but the Roman Catholic Church of Jessore has, we do not know why, stopped the sale of the publication to Musalmans. We could not, therefore, supply copies of the publication to our correspondents. We, therefore, send you the whole of the objectionable passage in the book for publication. We hope that the pious Musalmans of Bengal will, after reading it, unanimously pray to the Government for redress. It is our firm conviction that our object is sure to be fulfilled if representations be made from all quarters to our benevolent Government, and especially to that repository of sincerity, that picture of kindness, our just and high-minded Governor-General, Lord Curzon. Awake ye Musalmans of Bengal, be you rich or poor, learned or unlearned; be you zamindars or raiyats, mukhtars or pleaders or barristers, newspaper editors or Magistrates; be you Shias or Sunnis, Hanifis or Muhammadis. Awake and see how your enemies have shot a deadly arrow at your head! Give up your *daladali*, your quarrels and squabbles, and unite to unanimously pray to the Government for the expurgation of that portion of the book which contains an unjust attack on your religion, and for an adequate punishment of the writer. The writer has not spared even the Government, and calls the Protestant Church a pig-sty. He has also unjustly attacked the Hindu religion.

The Editor writes:—

Every pious Musalman ought to read the above. It will be easily understood how necessary it has become to publish a fresh edition of Munshi Shaikh Abdar Rahim's "Life of the Prophet" in order to defend Islam against unjust and malicious attacks by Christian Missionaries. The author of "সত্য ধর্ম নিরূপণ" ("Ascertainment of the true religion") has not only attacked the Musalman religion, but has also fallen foul of the Hindu religion and Hindu gods and goddesses. It is a great regret that pious Hindus are doing nothing to defend their religion against this unjust attack by Christian Missionaries. It is a great pleasure, however, to learn that out of fear for the Musalmans, the Missionaries have stopped the sale and free distribution of the book. Our Hindu brethren ought to make common cause with us in getting the writer of the book adequately punished. Let us hope that the pious members of both the communities will try their best to have the publication of the book suppressed.

59. The *Bangavasi* of the 18th November writes as follows:—

The *Bangavasi*'s subscribers in South Africa.

The *Bangavasi* has seven subscribers in South Africa, of whom two hail from Kimberley, three from Johannesburg, one from Capetown, and one from Durban. All these subscribers are Bengali Musalmans. The *Bangavasi* was posted to these subscribers even last week, but the paper is not likely to reach the subscribers in Kimberley and Johannesburg, which are now closed to everything coming from the English.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 18th, 1899.

URIYA PAPERS.

60. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 1st November and the *Utkaldipika* of the 11th November mention a number of accidents which occurred only a few days ago on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and observe that the Provincial authorities must insist on the Company's at once putting up fences for the protection of life.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 1st, 1899.

61. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 1st November calls upon the well-to-do Indians to pay a visit to the ensuing Paris Exhibition, which promises to be one of the wonders of the modern world.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 1st, 1899.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 1st, 1899.

62. The same paper has reason to believe that the expenses of the Indian contingent, now fighting in South Africa, will be borne by the English Exchequer, and that this is due to the intervention of Lord Curzon, for which His Excellency deserves the thanks of the Indians.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

63. The same paper states that the poor people of Sambalpur are in great distress, and that relief measures will have soon to be adopted. The writer advises the authorities to dole out relief on a liberal scale and not to exact labour from every recipient.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

64. The same paper suggests that the subscriptions raised in behalf of the ill-fated residents of Darjeeling may be transferred to the hands of the Bhagalpur authorities for distribution to the poor in that division, who have suffered from the late cyclone, as Darjeeling does not need such assistance.

UTKALDIPKA,
Nov. 11th, 1899.

65. The *Utkaldipika* of the 11th November is glad to learn that the Government of India has instructed the Native States of India to clear their debts before subscribing handsomely to charitable endowments or for works of public utility, and observes that similar instructions should be issued to local authorities under whose paramount influence the Native States are compelled to neglect the payment of legitimate debts in order to make provision for works of benevolence.

UTKALDIPKA.

66. In alluding to the exhibition of agricultural and industrial products that was held last year, the same paper is of opinion that a similar exhibition may be held this year too, but adds that steps should be taken to make the matter widely known in the interior of the Orissa Division, so as to induce *bonâ fide* cultivators and artists to take a prominent part in the work, for without their co-operation and interest, the exhibition can never achieve its object.

UTKALDIPKA.

67. The same paper draws the attention of Government to the judgment of Mr. Pennell, the late Judge of Chapra, in Patna, in a case in which every attempt was made by the local authorities to ruin a man named Narsingh Singh, and observes that unless Government takes serious notice of the same, such cases will multiply in number, and the honour of British justice will be sacrificed at the altar of selfishness, pride, and race animosity.

UTKALDIPKA.

68. The same paper is informed that the state of the crops and of public health in Banki, Dompara, Dalijora and Kalkala, in the Orissa Division, is not good. Many in Banki and Dompara are compelled to live on roots and fruits gathered in the neighbouring jungles. As many as 125 souls in Dompara have been carried off by cholera in three months, and wild elephants are destroying the remnants of the crops in Dalijora, Darpani and Kalkala.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 25th November, 1899.